

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Rhodia, Inc

Maryland Technology Extension Service

ISO 14000 Based EMS Implementation

Client Profile:

Rhodia, Inc., is a chemical manufacturer that specializes in surfactants for the consumer specialties market, and monomers for the paint and coatings industry. Their manufacturing space is comprised of several buildings spread over a 5-acre site located in Baltimore, Maryland. They presently employ about 100 people.

Situation:

The Maryland Technology Extension Service (MTES), a NIST MEP network affiliate, has been offering a program for implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) based on the ISO14000 standard, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of the Environment, for the last several years. These assessments are funded by a US EPA Pollution Prevention Incentives for States grant. MTES's program assists manufacturing organizations in implementing an environmental management system during four one-day workshop training sessions, spaced six weeks apart, followed by specific work assignments and supported by field implementation assistance. Program participants are also offered technical assistance on implementation of cost-saving pollution prevention technologies. Businesses participate in groups of four or five. The implementation phases are designed so that the organization puts the environmental management system in place at a pace that is manageable and that delivers measurable results from the outset. Participants learn together and from one another's experiences. Each participant develops an EMS that is tailored to their specific needs and goals. Having utilized the services of MTES in the past, Jerry McGinnis, Plant Manager of the Rhodia plant, responded as a result of marketing efforts for the program and committed his organization to completion of this program that would lead Rhodia through the development of an EMS that would allow them to systematically identify, measure and manage their environmental impacts and improve their environmental performance.

Solution:

Rhodia developed an EMS that provided them with a methodology for identifying and maintaining compliance with regulations and also put into motion plans to reduce the volume of waste water generated, reduce BOD concentration, and to reduce acrylic acid emissions.

Results:

- * Developed and implemented Environmental Management System.
- * Increased investment of \$115,000.
- * Implemented procedures to track and document saving resulting from reducing waste water, BOD, and acrylic acid emissions.
- * Expected savings of \$8,000 in 2005.

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Testimonial:

"Participation in the EMS process has opened our eyes to the need to continually review our environmental issues and to plan for them the same as our other business needs."

Billy Sledge, EH&S Manager